

Meeting Minutes Facilities Advisory Committee
Wednesday, August 6, 2008
Madison County Courthouse
Virginia City, Mt

People present: Chairman John Scully, Commissioner Dave Schulz, Commissioner Jim Hart, Joseph Doyle, Roger Williams, Toni James, Faye Kneeland, Mary Lous Freese, Frank Nelson, Jay Willett, Margie Edsall, Pat Bradley, Evalyn Johnson, John Hamilton, Bill Hanley, Dona Lindsey, Vergil Lindsey, Dale Ragain

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairman Scully.

Minutes from the June 4 meeting were read and the following changes were requested:

- ✓ Pat Bradley requested that a recap of her presentation be a part of the minutes. The following is an abbreviated version: Pat Bradley presented her objections to a survey that was written by Nancy Griffin and Bob Miller. Her general objections were based on her opinion that surveys in general ask for opinions without basing the questions in fact. Also, the survey was written by non-professionals and a professionally done survey would give us relevant and directional input. Her specific objections were based on the wordiness and inaccuracies based within the survey. She also objects to asking the general public opinions about issues which should be resolved lawfully and within the bounds of decision making of the commissioners.
- ✓ Bill Hanley requested that the minutes reflect that his opinion is to move the building back to its original location with a one-story office building.
- ✓ Several requests were to check on the .05% survey return figure to make sure of the accuracy.

Jarvis Home Tour

The meeting moved to the Jarvis home, which is behind the courthouse. A floor plan and general description that was provided by the Jarvises is attached to the minutes.

Other Options

Commissioner Schulz noted that the Peterson house/cabin was offered by the Petersons, and that the commission may consider it as well as the other structures already toured. Under general objection of this option, Chairman Scully reminded the group that this is an advisory board only, and the commissioners can entertain any options they see fit and make up their own minds. The FAC is touring all available options to see what may be available.

Survey

The survey group had not met in the two months since the prior meeting, so they did not have a presentation for the group. In light of the fact that nothing had been produced, Pat Bradley moved to table the survey and continue with the plan. Bill Hanley seconded the motion. Before he opened the floor for discussion, Chairman Scully asked Pat to clarify her motion to make sure the definition of tabling was being used correctly. He explained that tabling the survey only temporarily suspends further consideration/action on pending question. Only a majority vote without discussion is needed to bring it from the table. He was careful to point out that cancelling it would not make it go away entirely, because it could be voted back on to the agenda at any point with a motion to reconsider. A majority vote with discussion is needed for this. Pat changed her motion to terminate the survey. Discussion followed and the motion carried.

Decision Matrix

Chairman Scully ran down a series of decisions that the committee needed to make. Should the committee:

1. Do Nothing
2. Remodel Courthouse
 - a. To include an elevator with minimal office expansion
 - b. Extend courthouse to street and add some office space and an elevator
3. Besides the remodel of the courthouse, are additional facilities and jail necessary?
4. If additional facilities and jail are necessary, where?
 - a. Old Schoolhouse and adjacent lot
 - b. Original location (across from current courthouse)
 - c. Behind Elk's Lodge
 - d. Jarvis property
 - e. State Land
 - i. Build a new facility, but leave jail where it is
 - ii. Original ballot proposition
 - iii. Modified ballot proposition modified to have not so many jail cells, etc

Chairman Scully pointed out that he did not know if the State Land was still available, but would find out. He put out an informal vote to narrow down the options.

1. Do nothing: 0 votes
2. Elks Lodge: 1 vote
3. Jarvis property: 2 votes
4. Pursue original site: 7 votes
 - a. Build one story office complex to capacity: 1 vote
 - b. Build the original planned facility with smaller proposed jail: number of votes unknown at this time due to lack of specifics.
 - c. Do original ballot proposition: 5 votes
 - d. Pursue State Land depending on cost: 6 votes

Frank Nelson urged the committee to look 20 years ahead in its planning to account for growth and to make sure we don't under build. In the meantime, until capacity is reached, the new facility could be used to serve other communities that have served Madison County.

Original Ballot Proposition Discussion

Discussion revolved around the possible reasons that the ballot issue failed twice. One theory was that the public was misinformed about the facts surrounding the new facility, such as the myth that a new water system would need to be built to accommodate the large facility. Some people may have thought that the overbuilding of a jail facility would result in a "rent-a-jail" with a financial burden put on the taxpayers if the jail was not filled to capacity. Another issue was that some voters simply didn't think a new facility was necessary and that the status quo was acceptable. Chairman Scully reminded the committee again that they were to advise the commission on a course of action to take.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, September 17, at 5:30, to be held at the Madison County Courthouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robin Blazer.